

March 22nd, 2026
Fifth Sunday of the Great Lent

SUNDAY, 3/22 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for special intention
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for all parishioners

MONDAY, 3/23 **7:30 am** Typika

TUESDAY, 3/24 **No** Service

WEDNESDAY, 3/25 *Feast of the Annunciation*
 6:15 pm Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, 3/26 **No** Service

FRIDAY, 3/27 **7:15 am** Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts and Sorokousty

SATURDAY, 3/28 **5:00 pm** Divine Liturgy for special intention

SUNDAY, 3/29 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Announcements

1-Confession

Confession is available after each service or per request. Please let us know if there is somebody who wants to go to confession but can't come to the church due to the health condition.

2-Palm Sunday Announcement

Next Palm Sunday, pussy willows will be blessed immediately after the Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to bring their own or receive a blessed branch at church!

3-Fast & Abstinence

- On Holy and Great Friday, required abstinence is from meat and dairy products
- On Holy and Great Saturday, required abstinence is from meat.

4-Blessing Of Easter Food Baskets

Easter foods baskets will be blessed on Easter Sunday after the 8:15 AM Divine Liturgy. You may read more about beautiful Easter food baskets blessing by visiting this website: <http://www.stsophiaukrainian.cc/resources/blessingpaschalfood/>

A Lenten Reminder – It Is Never Too Late

As we draw closer to the end of Great Lent, we may feel that we have not fasted as we intended or that we have fallen short in our spiritual efforts. Yet the Church gently reminds us: it is never too late to begin.

God does not measure our journey by how perfectly we started, but by the sincerity of our return. Even now, we can take a step toward Him—through fasting, prayer, and repentance. Every small effort, offered with humility, is precious in His sight.

Like the workers in the vineyard who came at the last hour, we are still invited to receive the same grace. What matters most is not how much time remains, but that we open our hearts to God today.

Let us not be discouraged, but begin again—with hope, trust, and love—knowing that the Lord is always ready to receive us.

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent – Gospel Reflection

As we approach the final days of Great Lent, the Gospel places before us a powerful contrast between human expectations and the way of Christ. Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem, fully aware of the suffering, rejection, and death that await Him. He speaks openly about His Passion, yet the disciples still struggle to understand.

In this moment, James and John ask Jesus for places of honor in His glory. Their request reveals a very human desire—for recognition, power, and importance. But Christ responds by inviting them to something much deeper: “Can you drink the cup that I drink?” In other words, are you willing to share not only in My glory, but also in My suffering?

Jesus then teaches that true greatness is not measured by status or authority, but by humility and service:

“Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be the servant of all.”

He Himself becomes the model:

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

This Gospel speaks directly to our Lenten journey. After weeks of fasting, prayer, and effort, we may be tempted to look for results, recognition, or a sense of achievement. Yet Christ reminds us that the path to holiness is not about being seen, but about loving quietly, serving faithfully, and giving ourselves for others.

As we prepare to enter Holy Week, this Sunday calls us to follow Christ more deeply—not only in belief, but in the way we live. To walk with Him means to embrace humility, to accept sacrifice, and to trust that through the Cross comes true life.

May we have the courage to follow Christ on His path, so that we may also share in the joy of His Resurrection.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Sunday collections for the weekend of 3/15/26, including envelope offerings - \$615, donations -\$253, candles -\$69, online - \$200
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$1137

Support Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church



**Protection of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Byzantine Rite**

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Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

***THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.***